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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO NSC MCFARLANE

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
 TAGS: PGOV, IT, US  
 SUBJECT: SENATOR HART INTERVIEW IN "ESPRESSO"

1. (U) THE MARCH 11 ISSUE OF THE ITALIAN LEFT-LEANING  
 NEWS WEEKLY "L'ESPRESSO" NOW ON THE NEWSTANDS CARRIES  
 A SHORT ONE PAGE INTERVIEW WITH SENATOR GARY HART.  
 THE INTERVIEW DEALS MOSTLY WITH DOMESTIC ISSUES AND  
 DISARMAMENT BUT DOES CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING, FINAL  
 EXCHANGE:

- Q. IF THE PCI (COMMUNIST PARTY) WERE TO JOIN  
 THE GOVERNMENT DURING YOUR PRESIDENCY, WHAT  
 WOULD YOU DO? WOULD YOU BE CONCERNED?
- A. NO, ITALY KNOWS HOW TO LOOK AFTER ITSELF.  
 THE COMMUNISTS WOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM AS LONG  
 AS THEY DID NOT HAVE THE DEFENSE MINISTRY ...
- ANYWAY, ITALY IS AN EXTRAORDINARY COUNTRY.

2. (C) COMMENT: HART'S APPROACH, AS REPORTED IN THIS  
 INTERVIEW, VARIES FROM THE POLICY OF FIRM OPPOSITION  
 TO INCLUDING COMMUNISTS IN GOVERNMENT FOLLOWED BY ALL  
 RECENT ADMINISTRATIONS.

RABB  
 END OF MESSAGE

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State Dept. review completed

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